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Battle of yorktown map worksheet

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Bauman's Plan of the Investment of York and Gloucester was the first published map of the decisive allied victory at Yorktown. It was drawn by an American engineer and provided detailed information about fields, wetlands, woodlots, roads, camps, and fortified lines of the American, French, and British forces. The map was created by Maj. Sebastian Bauman, a skilled artillery and topographical engineer who had immigrated to America from Germany. He played a crucial role in creating this great map, given his experience in the Austrian military service and his training in artillery and topographical engineering. Bauman's company was attached to Col. Henry Knox's regiment before being transferred to Col. John Lamb's artillery regiment in January 1777. He was promoted to major in 1778 and became artillery commander at West Point in 1779. In 1781, Bauman marched south with General Knox to Yorktown, where he commanded one of the batteries during the siege and witnessed the formal surrender ceremony on October 19. Three days later, Major Bauman took to the field again, this time with his surveying instruments, and within a week's time he had completed a detailed survey of the shoreline, battlefield, and encampments. Over the next several months, Bauman collaborated with a Philadelphia engraver, Robert Scot, to produce a large-scale map to be sold to the public by subscription. With the York River and British ships submerged before Yorktown, the entire encampment in its vicinity is depicted. A map will soon be published in Philadelphia, showcasing the memorable siege. Gentlemen interested in subscribing can apply to Captain Arnold or the printer. The publication was delayed for several months. An announcement seeking subscriptions appeared in the New York Packet and American Advertiser in March 1782. By June, Bauman informed General Steuben that the map was being printed. The Bauman-Scot partnership produced a unique map, unmatched in scale and detail during the Revolutionary era. The elaborate design reflects Bauman's European background and training. A trompe-l'oeil scroll at the top bears the dedication to General Washington, while another provides the key to the British positions at Yorktown and Gloucester. The lower third of the map features a rococo cartouche surrounded by American and French flags, cannons, and war accoutrements. The text explains the siege's progression day-by-day, position-by-position, using color-coded indicators (blue for Americans, yellow for French, red for British). The narrative concludes with "Capitulation... Ratified the 19th," where 7,247 British troops, Hessians, and Anspach became prisoners to the Americans. Unlike British cartographers, Bauman had access to the entire area, including American and French encampments. He depicted the landscape in extraordinary detail, including woodlots, tree lines, and other features rarely shown on maps of the period. The map indicates General Washington's quarters with a marquis tent, as well as General Rochambeau's across the road. Bauman's masterful "American Park of Artillery" showcases American victory over the British, with its powerful design drawing the viewer to its central triumph. Bauman, who returned to West Point after Yorktown, joined the New York State Society of the Cincinnati and struggled to transition back to civilian life in NYC. He sought assistance from President Washington, leading to his appointment as federal postmaster of New York City. Robert Scot's engraving of Bauman's Plan was his most ambitious project, showcasing his skills as a mapmaker and establishing him as one of Philadelphia's top engravers. Scot went on to become the first chief engraver of the United States Mint, producing some of America's earliest coins. Several other maps of the Yorktown siege drew inspiration from Bauman's work, including Andrew Beers' The United States Almanack and David Ramsay's History of the Revolution of South-Carolina. However, it was John Francis Renault and Benjamin Tanner who created a more accurate and ambitious copy of Bauman's Plan to honor the marquis de Lafayette's return visit in 1825. Explore America's fight for freedom through our series 'Treasures of the American Revolution'. Discover more historical maps at the Institute's Collections. This educational resource delves into the Battle of Yorktown, also known as the Siege of Yorktown, marking the last battle of the American Revolutionary War. The accompanying worksheet provides detailed information on the battle's history, from its background to the aftermath, and includes interactive features like multiple-choice questions and a downloadable PDF version.